

- If you could work for anyone, who would you choose? Why?
- What chores were you taught as a child? What did you like or dislike about it? Why?
- What's the hardest job you've ever had? What did you have to do, and what did you learn from it?

## WORD

*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. PROVERBS 16:3*

When we ask God to help us in our work and when we commit what we are doing to Him, He will cause our plans to succeed. Contrary to popular belief, work is not supposed to be dragging, boring, or a punishment. God can bring success to what we do. In this lesson, we will look at some misconceptions about work and the truth about it from God's Word.

### 1 Work is a blessing, not a curse.

*<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." GENESIS 2:15-17*

When God placed Adam in the garden, He commanded him to work. Work is not a result of sin. God originally gave man a responsibility to work and be a blessing. Even in a perfect setting like the garden of Eden, God wanted man to work. Why do you think we sometimes view work as a curse? How has it been a blessing for you?

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### 2 Work is a means, not an end.

*Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. ECCLESIASTES 2:11*

Work is not the goal. As the wisest man who ever lived said, finding meaning in work is meaningless and vanity. Work is a way to honor God in every day. If we think work is the goal, how will we live? If we think work is a means to honor God, how will we live?

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### 3 Work for God, not man.

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men . . . COLOSSIANS 3:23*

As followers of Jesus, we work not to please people or get their approval. We work and live for God's pleasure and glory. If we work for man, we will be disappointed and insecure. But if we work for God, we will do what's right and honoring to Him. What does it mean to work heartily? How have you learned to work heartily?

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